

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to describe the polymer particles of present invention as "water-insoluble". Support is found on page 10, line 1. Typographical error in claims 1 and 13 have been amended as well.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-16 are pending. No additional claim fee is due.

REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, clarifications are requested for Response Factors, Test Protocols I and II.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully point out that Protocols I and II are disclosed in great details on pages 14-21 of the specification; the Response Factors can be calculated from the measurements conducted under the Protocols (see page 18). As such, a person of ordinary skills in the art has a detailed disclosure to carry out the requisite tests to obtain the Response Factors. Therefore, Applicants submit that the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph are met.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103 over US 3,681,248 and US 4,209,417

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, and in the alternative, under 35 USC 103 as obvious in view of US 3,681,248 and US 4,209,417 for reasons of record on pages 3-4 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse to the extent they may apply to the claims as now amended.

Applicants respectfully point out that both references disclose water-soluble polymer particles, which are clearly distinguishable from the claimed water-insoluble polymer particles in

the present invention. Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious in view of the cited references.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102 over US 3,681,248 and US 4,209,417

Claims 12-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 3,681,248 and US 4,209,417 for reasons of record on page 4 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse to the extent they may apply to the claims as now amended.

Applicants respectfully point out that both references disclose water-soluble polymer particles, which are clearly distinguishable from the claimed water-insoluble polymer particles in the present invention. Therefore, the present invention is not anticipated by the cited references.

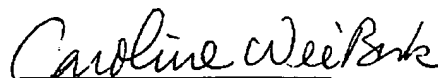
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the above is a complete response to the Office Action and the pending claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance, but for the double patenting rejection.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully Submitted,



Caroline Wei-Berk
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 45,203
(513) 627-0352

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Customer No. 27752